

ABSTRACT

A packet header for use in information packets transmitted within a computer network includes a protocol extension field that indicates changes of field values and/or lengths within the header. In one embodiment, the protocol extension field includes two bits. The value of the protocol extension field indicates whether or not the packet header has been altered: 00 indicates no alterations, 01 or 10 indicate a predetermined change in the content and/or length of the header, and 11 indicates dynamic negotiation of the field values and/or size. Such packets may be used in a communication protocol for the computer network.

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95